of the troops last year brought great prosperity, come two subscriptions, of \$1,000,000 and \$500,000, re-Even the corporations are flocking to rescue, one in Cleveland offering to take \$2,000,-

proposed bonds. But this is no time for "ifs." Let No. 2 declared yesterday that, but for an "if." it would effer to subscribe for \$10,00,000 of the proposed bonds. But this is no time for "ifs." Let No. 2 sweep away its doubts and misgivings and consent to add its \$10,00,000 to No. 1s \$19,000,000, and by Saturday night, without a doubt, the noble army of politicians and theatrical managers and lawyers and business men of high and low degree will pour in their subscriptions in such overwhelming volume that the Rapid Transit Commission will have to remodel its plans to provide for a line to Tuckahoe in order to use up the surplus—cash?

## ESLER IN PHILADELPHIA.

FINANCIAL VENTURES OF THE HEAD OF THE METROPOLIS CONTRACT COMPANY

Although the directors of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company have professed that they have withdrawn altogether from the tunnel project, it is generally believed that they will eventually be among the bidders for the contract. In point of fact, the Commissioners are inclined to look upon the Metropolitan Railroad as the legitimate operator of the underground system, and to regard it as the only responsible possible bidder yet 'n the field. It is true that two other syndicates have stated their willingness to construct the road under the conditions provided in the act as it now stands. One of these syndicates was incorporated a couple of days ago under the name of the Manhattan Transit Company. Its principal incorporators are Bert Reiss, a lawyer, of Brooklyn, and Thomas G. Mellefont, of London, England, who is staying at the St. Denis Hotel. The other syndicate is known as the Metropolis Contract Company, of which Frederick B. Esler is president. The representatives of both these concerns have asserted that they have the necessary capital behind them to undertake the work of building the tunnel, but as neither has as yet properly assured the Commission of his financial responsibility, their propositions have not so far received serious consideration by the Board. A dispatch from Philadelphia gives the following information regarding the career of Mr. Ester in that city.

"After dropping his membership in the Lawyers' Club Frederick B. Esler became prominently known as a contractor. In that capacity he stands to-day at the head of the Metropolis Contract Company, bidding to build New-York City's rapid-transit system for a lump sum of \$30,000,000. Until this proposition was made the name of Frederick B. Esler had all but been forgotten in this city, but it has not been so many years since his activities were known and felt here. His last great undertaking was in 1893, when he had charge of campaign headquarters in the Twentieth Ward. A fund of he \$30,000 was supplied to defeat the re-election of Thomas M. Hammett as Select Councilman. The desired end was obtained, and since then this city has seen little of Mr. Esler, as he returned to New-York. Early in life Mr. Esler developed a genius for politics. There are some oldtime Democrats still living who can tell a tale of the disappearance of some of the City Committee's records on a critical occasion, and their publication in a newspaper.

"From a banker, Mr. Es'er became a promoter. It was early in the eightles that Esler entered into the rapid-transit fever in this city, and launched the Philadelphia and Northeastern Elevated Railroad in Front-st. He interested Charles H. Cramp in the scheme, and Mr. Cramp and others put up money. The late George H. Boker, once president of the Union League, was made president. Amos R. Little and Walter Wood also went into the scheme. Three or four years were required to get a bill through the Councils. The progress of the Northeastern Railroad was further blocked in 1888 by an investigation into alleged bribery. The committee did not find the allegations proved, and the bill was passed. The concern became known as the Northeastern Rapid Transit Company. The construction of the road was delayed until nearly the time limit which was extended. Finally a hundred yards of construction were put up in Front-st., north of Market-st. Sults were begun by property-owners in the Supreme Court, and it was decided that the highways of a city could not be used for that purpose.

'Another undertaking of Mr. Esler was the Philadelphia Illuminating Company. It obtained privileges for public lighting. Esler's company was organized with a capital of \$500,000, and a plant was established, which was bonded for 850,000. The Third National Bank advanced \$15,000 on some of the bonds. The Fort Wayne Jenny Construction Company furnished electrical apparatus, and Albert F. Moore put up the wires. The Esler company proceeded to bid for public lighting in the district supplied by the Brush company, and got a year's contract at 22 cents a light per night. The bid of the Brush company was 40 cents. Poles were erected. company was 40 cents. Poles were erected, and the Esler company began business. Until the Esler company reached out for commercial work everything moved smoothly. It was without the bounds of their privileges, and Chief Walker of the Electrical Bureau sent out men to cut the wires. Esler took the matter into court and was beaten. Mr. Esler, when the year was up, went out of business. Subsequently General Louis Wagner became president of the reorganized Third National Bank and proceeded to recover the amount of money owed to the bank by the Esler company. The General sued for ettachment, and he got the plant. The Fort Wayne people got nothing. Chief Walker says the city confiscated the poles, and the Third National Bank got all there was left.

"An account of all Esler's financial activities

National Bank got all there was left.

"An account of all Eeler's financial activities in this city would fill a large volume. The present manager of the Fort Wayne Construction Company in this city remembers Esler very well. He sold him the outfit for the light and power plant referred to above. To use his own words, I knew the Eslers, and I might have had better sense. But Esler came in here with a fervent and convincing narrative of the tre-

"INDESTRUCTIBLE" FIRE AND BURGLAR-THE MANHATTAN STORAGE

and WAREHOUSE COMPANY Warehouses Lexington Ave., 41st and 424 Sts. and offices. Seventh Ave., 52d and 53d Sts. Superior advantages and unacelled security for storage of Purniture. Merchandise and Valuables.

the equipment.

"Then a mortgage covering the plant was executed to the Solicitors' Loan and Trust Company, now defunct, to secure an issue of \$50,000 of 5 per cent gold bonds. The entire issue was hypothecated at the Third National Bank for a loan of \$10,000. With this and the plant on credit the Eslers started business, with Frederick B. Esler as president.

credit the Eslers started business, with rerick B. Esler as president.

'The enterprise was not a success, and Samuel Wray was appointed receiver. A sale was ordered, and \$8,100 was paid for the outfit. This wiped out about \$25,000 due to the creditors, and the purchaser was George W. Reed, who passed the title, etc., over to the Philadelphia Illuminating Company, with 'Robert G. Esler, Frederick's father, as president. Contracts for public lighting were secured to the amount of

Frederick's father, as president. Contracts for public lighting were secured to the amount of \$10,000, with the result already narrated.

"The elevated railroad scheme did not proceed far enough to determine what kind of an enterprise that would be. It was greatly in need of capital. The franchise was sold or in some manner passed to the control of August Eelmont and Vermilye & Co., of New-York. They were the virtual owners of the franchise when it was invalidated with all other railroad franchises in this city by a decree of the Sufranchises in this city by a decree of the

TOWNS DID NOT COMPLETE HIS POEM. MIRABEAU LAMARTINE'S RAPID TRANSIT EF-FUSION STILL LACKS THE FINAL STANZAS BUT THE MILLION IS ALL RIGHT.

Mirabeau Lamartine Towns, the Bard of Brook lyn, was a busy man yesterday, and not altogether happy, either. Every one had heard of his million-dellar subscription for bonds for the building of the rapid transit underground tunnel, and even the janitor's cat, as she purred her morning welcome to the genial gentleman, added an extra "meow!" and craned her neck, as much as to say, with all the rest of the people in the Germania Building: Where did you get it?"

"Where did you get it-where did you get it, Mr.

The cigar Indian outside the building blinked his wooden eye as he asked it. The scrubwomen in the halls twisted their mops into huge interrogation points and waited for an answer. The elevaman chuckled the query softly to himself as he rose and fell with his living freight, and whenever Mr. Towns looked up at his typewriter there was an asking, unsatisfied look in each of the young man's eyes. By noon Mr. Towns had grown fidgety, and by night he was heard to mutter;

This million-dollar business is growing too damned fetune." And then the office-boy was told to tell all callers

that Mr. Towns was "engaged," it was his "busy Early in the day Mr. Towns was seen by a reporter for a Brooklyn evening newspaper, but the

universal yearning to learn where he got so much loose change made him a recluse by night. He is reported to have said when asked about his big That is a subject that I have little to say about

The fact is that the money is not just at present. The fact is that the money is not all mine. It belongs to several syndicates, comles and private individuals whom I represent and they are willing to subscribe the money at any ment when the city may be inclined to commence k. No. I cannot say just who the men are. I prefer not to mention any of the syndicates that prefer not to mention any of the syndicates that are interested through me. I win not say how much my share of the subscription is. My name is down opposite the million dollars, I might say, merely as a matter of convenience. I should also add that this money is subscribed only on agreement that it is not to be turned over unless the Manhattan tunnel is connected with a spur tunnel to Brooklyn Borough. So you see I am looking out for local interests also."

It is feared that the Manhattan people who are counting on Mr. Towns's million will be disconcerted when they discover the "string" to it. He gives warning that he won't "cash up" unless the Manhattan tunnel is connected with a spur tunnel to Brooklyn Borough.

Brooklyn Borough.

to Brooklyn Borough.

As The Tribune reporter left the Germania Building he encountered in the lower hallway a seedy individual who was guarding an iron tank resembling a gas meter wrapped in a paper flour sack.

"Kin you tell me how to git at that man Tewns?" he asked. Take the elevator to the sixth floor and send in

Take the elevator to the sixth moor and send in your name."

"Oh, yes, I know-I done all that, but that won't fetch him. Ye see, I've got an invention here to exterminate muskeeters. I'm from Yaphank, on the isiand. You generate electricity in this here tank and string wires around the yard, and then you press the button and that's the last of the gallinippers. All I need's a few hundred dollars to git the darned thing right. W'en I seen how rich Towns wuz I cum right on to see him."

"And you didn't see him?"

"No. I sent him word by his young man at the door that I had a machine to kill muskeeters by generating electricity."

"Well?"
"Well, he said I could go soak my head, as several newspapers had sent machines to his office, and they had done nothin but generate hades for him fur the last twenty-four hours, an' he didn't want no more of nothin'."

BILL CHANGED TO PLEASE WHALEN. Albany, April 29 (Special).—Senator Stranshan submitted further amendments to the New-York Rapid Transit bill to-night, providing that the Corporation Counsel shall manage the legal affairs of the Rapid Transit Commission when it seeks to condemn land for an underground road. Corporation Counsel Whalen said these amendments made the bill absolutely satisfactory to the authorities substantially without opposition. The bill will not come before the Senate again till next Tuesday. Governor Roosevelt has received from the New-York Board of Trade and Transportation resolutions favoring the changes in the bill suggested by

MOUNT VERNON DEMOCRATS SPLIT.

FIGHT OVER GAS COMPANIES IN THE PRIMARIES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

Mount Vernon was to be a quiet affair, on account the Democratic primaries on Wednesday night. There was a lively fight between the gas companies, which is likely to be the principal issue at

the election on May 9.
At present the New-York Suburban Gas Com has a monopoly in the city and is furnishing for \$150 a thousand feet. The Westchester

At present the New-York Suburban Gas Compeny has a monopoly in the city and is furnishing gas for \$1.50 a thousand feet. The Westchester Gas and Coke Company, of which Clarence S. McCleliand, president of the People's Bank and formerly postmaster, is president, has made application to the Aldermen for a franchise, offering gas for \$1.25 a thousand feet. The old gas company has offered to meet the figures of its rival. The question will come up at the next session of the Aldermen, when the date of a public hearing is to be decided on.

The friends of the new gas company want a hearing at an early day, and both companies are making a fight to secure the nomination and election of Aldermen favorable to their cause. On Wednesday night the fight of the Westchester Gas and Coke Company was led by Clarence S. McClelland. The chief supporter of the old gas company was Harry P. McTague. Commissioner of Public Works. Mr. McTague is familiar with the affairs of the old company, having been in its employ before he was selected to serve the city. Although a member of Mayor Fiske's administration he has openly deserted it on this issue, and on Wednesday night put rival tickets in the field.

Alderman Dollard, of the First Ward, was the only successful candidate that Mr. McTague supported by Mr. McClelland and Mayor Fiske administration. Because he had refused to be subservient in street railroad matters and vote for a franchise to the New-York, Westchester and Connecticut Traction Company, favored by the Fiske administration, Mayor Fiske was trying to defeat him because he had refused to be subservient in street railroad matters and vote for a franchise to the New-York, Westchester and Connecticut Traction Company, favored by the Fiske administration, Mayor Fiske "Hurned down" Alderman Cline in the Second Ward, they said, for the same reason.

Clarence S. Merrill, a New-York business man, was nominated to the place in the Board now held by Mr. Cline, without opposition. The Fiske of said and the proposition of the place of t

BEARS AID IN RESISTING LAW.

Toledo, Ohio, April 20.-Deputy Revenue Collector Hogue had a desperate encounter with two trained Puriture. Ornaments, etc., carefully packed. Van Berrice by Skilled Workmen. Illustrated descriptive amphies sent on application. Inspection of buildings invited.

ADRIAN ISELIN, Jr., LAWRENCE WELLS. Frest. Hogue nad a desperate encounter with two trained bears yesterday, and narrow; escaped death. He was attempting to collect a ten-dollar war revenue tax from the owners of the bears—two Italians. The latter refused to pay, and the bears were invited.

Bec's Treas. Frest. Frest.

STATE POLICE BILL DEAD.

ROCHESTER SENATORS REFUSE TO VOTE FOR IT

GEORGE W. ALDRIDGE DEMONSTRATES TO PLATT THAT HE IS STILL ALIVE AND IN GOOD FIGHTING TRIM.

Albany, April 20 (Special).-The feeling in the in terior cities of the State against the State Police bill burst forth with great violence to-day, and by sunset few persons believed that it would mee with the approval of the Legislature. Citizens of Rochester took the lead against the bill, but it was apparent that they had the quiet support of the residents of the other cities affected by the billof Albany, Troy, Syracuse and Buffalo,

Governor Roosevelt first announced the revolt against the bill to the newspaper men. He said that while he favored the measure, he suspected its immediate effect, if it should be passed, would loss of votes to the Republican party. Littmately, he thought, it would justify itself, as the Raines Liquor Tax law after much adverse comhad justified itself.

The Governor said he had been informed that the two representatives of Rochester in the Senate, Cornelius N. Parsons and William W. Armstrong, had declined to vote for the bill unless Rochester was excluded from its provisions. They had first made known their opposition at the meeting of the Republican Senators on Tuesday night, and had declined to submit to caucus action. The meeting was called a "conference," therefore, and not 'caucus." Various amendments to the bill had been made at the suggestion of Senators Parsons and Armstrong, in the hope of inducing them rote for the bill, but this morning they had definitely announced that they would not support it until they had heard from their constituents. The Rochester Chamber of Commerce, they understood was opposed to it, and was to hold a meeting later in the day to consider it. Besides, prominent Re-publicans of Rochester and leading party newspapers were against it. The labor unions also were

fighting it. A SURPRISE TO THE LEGISLATURE. The Governor's statement excited great interest among the members of the Legislature, as the decision of the Rochester Senators was not generally known by the Senators and Assemblymen. Senator Ellsworth, who had been on the point of calling up the State Police bill, thought it prudent to have consultation outside the Senate Chamber with the Rochester Senators. They frankly informed him that to-day at least they could not support the measure, as the people of Rochester seemed op-posed to it. They did not, however, say that their opposition was sure to be permanent. All they de sired was to hear further from their constituents. Senator Elisworth decided not to call up the bill at

the morning session.

A little later in the day the Monroe County members of the Legislature received the following tele-gram from the secretary of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce:

Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committed adopts strong protest against Police bill. Text of resolution by mail. We urge you to oppose its parage.

JOHN M. IVES, Secretary. ALDRIDGE SEES THE GOVERNOR.

The interesting disclosure was made late this af ternoon that the Governor was visited early this morning by George W. Aldridge, former Superintendent of Public Works, who informed him that the leading Republicans of Rochester thought it would be unwise to pass the State Police bill. Mr Aidridge said he shared their opinion. At present the city government of Rochester was controlled by the Democratic party. It was not a good government, and the Republicans of Rochester believed it was doomed to defeat at the fall election, if nothing interfered with its unpopularity. But if the Republican party at Albany imposed a State police system on the city, he feared there would be such a revulsion of feeling that no Republican candidate for a city office could be elected.

Popular feeling against the State police idea was intense in Rochester. It pervaded all classes. The workingmen were especially bitter in their denunciation of the proposition.

The Governor heard this statement with interest, and did not seem downcast when he announced later that the bill was probably beaten. The Governor, it is believed, had not much heart in the scheme. the city government of Rochester was controlle

later that the bill was plotted in the scheme.

The Governor said this evening that he was The Governor said this evening that he was waited on earlier by Senator Armstrong, who had heard some one had told the Governor that the Rochester Senators would support the State Police bill if the canal prosecutions were relaxed. He declared the statement a falsehood and asked the Governor to put him face to face with the person who had made such an assertion.

The Governor said, in reply, that no responsible person had made such a proffer and no person would dare to do so. He was not making any bargains in regard to canal prosecutions.

QUIGG AND GIBES FOILED AGAIN. Frederick S. Gibbs was here to-day, and he manifested keen disappointment over the apparent defeat of the State Police bill. He returned to New-York on an evening train. Politicians were saying to-night that the supporters of Mr. Gibbs and

to-night that the supporters of Mr. Gibbs and Lemuel E. Quigg had thought that if the bill should be passed they would be enabled to greatly curtail the power of George W. Aldridge in Rochester, and consequently their disappointment would be greater than that of any other persons.

Politicians generally believe that while Mr. Aldridge is backed up by public opinion in Rochester, he nevertheless took special pleasure in stamping on the bill in order to demonstrate his power to Senator Platt. It had been expected that with two votes at his command in the Senate he would long before show his strength, but he has refrained up to the present moment from doing so.

Politicians ascribe the probable defeat of the State Police bill chiefly to the efforts of ex-Governor Frank S. Black Louis F. Payn, Superintendent of the Insurance Department, and Aldridge.

There was a rumor late to-night that the "organization" might introduce a Metropolitan Police bill, limited to New-York City.

STATEN ISLAND RAPID TRANSIT SOLD.

THE ROAD SAID TO HAVE BEEN BOUGHT IN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BALTI-MORE AND OHIO.

The Staten Island Rapid Transit Railroad was sold yesterday at auction. It is understood the pur-chasers represent the Baltimore and Ohio Rail-

road. The road runs from St. George to Arlington on the north shore and to South Beach on the south shore. It connects at St. George with the States Island Ferry, which is an independent corporation At Clifton it connects with the Staten Island Railroad, which runs to Tottenville and which it has operated under lease for some years. The sale ina portion of the ferry.

The road last fall falled to pay interest on s

mortgage bonds and the holders foreclosed. J. Van Smith, the general manager of the road, was appointed receiver, and County Judge Stephens was made referee. It was under his direction the sale of yesterday was held. The only bidders were Harry Bronner, R. H. Minzer and Frank Geary, of Manhattan, who were understood to be acting for the Baltimore and Ohlo, although after the sale they said they bought the road for their own account. The only bid made was \$2,000,000, and at this price D. T. Cornell, who conducted the sale, knocked the property down.

The Baltimore and Ohio has for a number years controlled the management of the Staten Island Rapid Transit, and uses the North Shore division to bring its freight from the Kill Bridge to St. George. The Baltimore and Ohlo freight trains thence are sent over the Baltimore and Ohlo's own tracks to Staten Island, and from Arlington to St. George the trains pass over the Staten Island Rapid Transit tracks. A number of times it has been rumored that the passenger trains of the road would be diverted from the Communipaw station to St. George.

would be diverted from the Communipae station to St. George.

The present management of the road, it is said, will continue. The policy and traffic schedule are to remain as in former years. The Staten Island Rapid Transit Raliroad owned and controlled one-half of the Staten Island Ferry Company. The other half is held by the Staten Island Electric Company, which operates some of the electric raliroads on the island. The sale was held in the First National Bank Building, St. George.

SHOT BY HIS NEGRO TENANT.

MURDER IN ALABAMA, AND NARROW ESCAPE OF MURDERER FROM LYNCHING.

Birmingham, Ala., April 20 (Special).-In the town of Woodstock, Bibb County, this morning "Lem" Collins, a negro, shot and killed John Herring, a local merchant, and was himself shot and badly wounded by "Pink" Herring, brother of his victim. Subsequently he had a narrow escape from being lynched, and may be the victim of a mob before morning. The negro was a tenant of John Herring. This morning he attempted to move his goods from the house, although owing Herring goods from the house, although owing Herring rent. Herring forbade his doing it, and the negro apparently yielded. Hearing later that Collins was determined to remove the goods. Herring and his brother went to the house to prevent it. The negro met them with a rifle, and opened fire. He was shot in the leg and fell to his knees, but kept up the firing. He shot John Herring in the groin, killing him instantly, and was himself shot by "Pink" Herring. He was finally put in jail, and a mob tried to lynch him, but was quieted by the Sheriff. THE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS

Albany, April 20.-Senator Elsberg's bill amend-New-York City charter by taking from the Commissioner of Buildings and Lights the power to inspect gas meters, and conferring those duties upon the State Inspector of Gas Meters, was the special order in the Senate this morning, and the body was resolved into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of it.

Senator Donnelly attacked the measure as unnecessary and undesired. Under the existing con-ditions gas meters were satisfactorily inspected. while the State Inspector failed to inspect. Sen-ator Grady also opposed the bill as purely partisan. Senator Elsberg admitted that the bill was desired by his organization for the reason that it would save the city \$27,000 a year. It was advanced to the order of third reading without a division, as was also the bill providing for the appointment of ten additional inspectors.

Veto messages from Mayor Van Wyck were read for the Wallabout Market and Prospect-ave. as-sessment bills, both of them affecting the Borough of Brooklyn, and both were passed again. Senator D. F. Davis's Surf-ave. Assessment bill, also vetoed by the Mayor, was passed.

ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Senator Parsons's bill amending the Insurance aw so as to permit mutual fire-insurance corporations having a capital of \$200,000 to underwrite any property outside of the State and reinsure policies written on such property by other corpo rations was defeated in the Assembly by a vote of 54 to 72.

Senator Krum's bill designating ten railroad companies outside of the State having connecting lines within the State in the bonds of which the savings banks of the State may invest deposits was passed by a vote of 125 to 15, after an amendment offered by Mr. Hoffman, of New-York, allowing savings banks to invest in securities of all solvent corporations of the State under the juris-diction of the Superintendent of Banks had been

These bills also were passed:

Mr. Fallows's, exempting from taxes and assessments the real estate of the Salvation Army.
Mr. Kelsey's, authorizing the building of a canal and locks in and near Cohoes to connect the Erle and Champlain canals.

Senator Krum's, providing for the appointment of a special deputy excise commissioner in the Borough of Queens.
Mr. Collins's, to enable the New-York City Police Commissioners to rehear and determine the charges against Thomas Cassidy, a policeman of the first grade.

Mr. Bedell's bill amending the Banking law permitting receivers of an insolvent bank to be substituted as party plaintiffs in actions or prosubstituted as party plaintiffs in actions or proceedings neretofore brought or begun to enforce the liability of stockholders was passed after a heated debate by a vote of 82 to 43. When the result was announced Mr. Green, of New-York, arose to a question of personal privilege, and charged openly that this bill had been put through the House by means of the interference of Benjamin B. Odell, fr. chairman of the State Republican Committee. He suggested that the Mazet Committee Investigate the bill's passage through the House at its sitting to-morrow, instead of investigating honest mem. Mr. Ware's bill providing that every apartment, lodging or tenement house to be hereafter erected in New-York City shall, if it exceed thirty-five feet in height, be built of fireproof material was advanced to third reading after an amendment of T. P. Sullivan's to eliminate tenement-houses from the provisions of the bill had prevailed.

THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS

Albany, April 20.-Mr. Allds to-day handed up the onference report on the Appropriation bill. Last year here were three bills; this year there will be only The amount provided in last year's bill, in cluding the general, school, insane and canal taxes, was \$16,333,876 33. This year the bill, including amounts for the same purposes, provides for a tax of \$16,541,744 47, a saving of \$39,121 85. The report was

BURIED UNDER SUSPICION.

CONFLICT OVER TWO BILLS ALLEGED TO BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE ASTORIA COMPANY.

Albany, April 20 (Special).—The Senate gave up hree hours of its valuable time to-day to a conflict over a bill introduced by Assemblyman Hill, of Buffalo, which, it is suspected, is designed to free valuable property of the Baltimore and Ohio Raiload from taxation for twenty years. Mr. Hill denied that this was bis purpose. He says his bill was drawn with the idea of inviting the construcion of big piers and docks on the shores of New-York Harbor for the accommodation of ocean

Whatever the purpose of the measure, Senators Grady and McCarren assailed it and attempted to have it sent in the Committee on Taxation and Retrenchment for a hearing. Senator Ford, chairman of the Committee on Commerce and Navigation, whose members had just reported the bill favorably, said that Senator McCarren was attempting to kill it by indirection. After a long to the Committee on Taxation and Retrenchment was adopted by a vote of 33 to 16. One of the reasons which contributed to this result was a sus-

reasons which contributed to this result was a suspicion that the bill contained provisions which might be used by the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company.

Assemblyman Hill made public a letter from Alexander R. Smith, secretary of the Commerce Commission, favoring the bill.

Objection to another bill was made by Senator Grady on the suspicion that it was an Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company bill. It was introduced by Assemblyman Kelsey on March 27, and would enlarge the authority of the Commissioners of the Land Office to grant lands under water.

STRANGLING THE FORD BILL.

INCREASING EVIDENCE THAT THE MA-CHINE MEANS TO KILL IT.

Albany, April 20 (Special) -The Assembly Committee on Rules has now the power to report favorably or to kill by suppression Senator Ford's bill taxing public franchises as real estate. This committee has as its members Speaker Nixon, Jotham P. Allds, Otto Kelsey, Marvin I. Greenwood, George M. Palmer and George T. Kelly. Speaker Nixon said to-day that the bill had been referred to the lawyers of the committee for consideration as to its practicableness. All the members of the committee except Mr. Nixon are lawyers, so that the committee really referred the bill to itself. Otto Kelsey, one of these lawyers, sald to-day

that the bill would receive the same consideration as any other, "no more, no less." This seems to indicate that Mr. Kelsey does not consider it any special importance. The taxpayers of the State will differ with him. It would put millions of dollars into the treasuries of the cities and of the State. Such a bill cannot be considered of a trifling nature.

There is every outer indication that the Republican "organization" intends to kill the bill. The Committee on Rules met to-night, but took no action on it. Delay, delay, delay, and the bill is

dead.

The "organization's" plan of postponing to some other year the passage of a bill in the interest of the taxpuyers will soon be perfected. It was announced to-night that the Senate Committee on Taxation and Retrenchment would report favorably to-morrow the resolution to appoint a committee of both houses of the Legislature to revise the taxation laws.

NEW RAILROAD IN WESTERN NEW-YORK.

Albany, April 20.—The Central New-York and Northern Railroad Company was incorporated to-day, with a capital of \$1,500,000, to construct a steam road fifty-five miles long, from the tracks of the Central New-York and Western Railroad at Perkinsville, Steuben County, to the West Shore Railroad at Macedon, Wayne County, with a five mile branch from the main line in Canadice, Ontarlo County, to the Hemlock Lake branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad at Hemlock Lake. company's principal office will be at Wayland, Steu-ben County. The directors are William W. Clark, Martin Kimmel, Henry V. Pratt and George Nold, of Wayland; Frederic H. Mollenhauer, Edmont Mollenhauer, George S. Bixby, Simeon M. Ayers and Ward J. Spofford, of New-York City.

BILLS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR. Albany, April 29.-Governor Roosevelt has signed the following bills:

the following bills:

Senator G. A. Davis's, providing that notice of sale to satisfy a lien may, if the owner of property cannot be found or his address discovered, be mailed to his last known address.

Mr. Greenwood's, authorizing Gaien, Wayne County, to raise \$1.3\text{in}\$ to pay certain indebtedness.

Mr. Gleason's, extending the boundaries of the city of Rochester.

Mr. Mazet's, providing that the calendar clerk of the Special Term. Part I, of the Supreme Court, First Department, shall receive \$4.000 a year.

Mr. McMilian's, amending the law prohibiting the employment of any female or a boy under eighteen years of age in operating or using polishing or buffing wheels.

Mr. Mitchell's, releasing to Jordan L. Mott and Henry F. Durant the State's title to certain lands under the Harlem River.

Senator Brackett's, incorporating the Red Men's Home Association.

Benator Thornton's, providing that where the Judge of a county is disqualified to hear and decide a special proceeding which has been brought before him, the Judge of an adjoining county shall have jurisdiction.

PLATT CALLED AN INGRATE

M'CARREN SAYS HE HAS TREATED CROKER BADLY.

AN INTERESTING DEBATE AT ALBANY ABOUT THE PRICE OF GAS AND THE ETIQUETTE OF BOSSISM

Albany April 20. Senator Donnelly to-day moved to discharge the Committee on Cities from further consideration of his bill to establish a municipal gas plant in the city of New-York. He explained the provisions of the measure, and said the ques-tion involved was not a legal one, but one merely of expediency. He declared that existing laws concerning the manufacture of gas were inadequate There was practically a monopoly in the manufacture of gas, and the people should be allowed to compete with this monopoly. In regard to the cry of confiscation of property, he said that there was under the Constitution no such thing as an ex-clusive franchise. There was no reason why gas companies should enjoy exclusive franchises. There was nothing radical or communistic in this propo-sition. Many cities in Europe owned their own gas plants, and also many cities in this country Two notable instances were Wheeling, W. Va., and Richmond, Va., where the gas plants had been entirely paid for out of the profits. What the people providing that the price should not be greater

only way in which it could be had. Senator Stranahan was recognized by the Chair to speak in opposition to the measure, when he was interrupted by a motion of Senator Raines for a recess until 4 o'clock.

75 cents a thousand cubic feet, seemed the

Senator Stranahan resumed his argument. He was not prepared to state that the proposition might not at some time become feasible; at the present time it was ridiculous. Within a year the Controller of the city had stated that the city had already exceeded its debt limit, and was for that reason unable to carry out the mandate of the people for a system of rapid transit. There had been no show of public sentiment for this bill, and the purpose was purely political. The lowest figure at which this plant could be established was from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000. Before the city embarked on this enterprise it should proceed with rapid transit

enator Grady said that in all other parts of the State the people were supposed to know what they officials to express a desire for any particular ob-ject to have it denied them by the Legislature.

Senator Elsberg said he was a believer in municipal ownership of such industries, but in view of the fact that the political chieftain of the organization now in control of affairs in New-York has openly stated that he was running the city for the benefit of his own pocket, he was not prepared to turn over the management of so great a property

the benefit of his own pocket, he was not prepared to turn over the management of so great a property to that organization.

Senator McCarren protested that there had been no disclosure that Mr. Croker was running the affairs of New-York for the benefit of his own pocket. There was not a decent man in the city or State who was not disgusted with the spectacle afforded each day this investigating committee was in session. The people had never been treated to such an exhibition of political ingratitude as was manifest in this investigation. Everybody knew the relations which existed between political leaders. It was pretty generally understoot that Mr. Croker had treated the Republican leader in a fair, honest and manly way. He knew of no instance where Mr. Croker would signify a willingness to go into such dirty work as engaged this committee. He did know who who was responsible for this, but he did know who the Republican leaders were, and if they had a spark of manhood they should feel contempt for themselves.

Senator Grady also denounced Senator Elsberg's reference to Mr. Croker. This committee, he said, had thought best to begin its inquiry into the introduction into the business world of Mr. Croker's sons. They might with much greater profit have inquired into the introduction into business of Mr. Platt's sons. They would have found that immediately after the passage of a bill permitting a foreign corporation to do business in this State Mr. Platt's son was found to be worth \$10,000 a year to that company. No Democrat had ever pointed the finger of scorn at Mr. Platt because one of his sons was at the head of a trust company, and another was in a law firm going from one department of the State Government to another acting as attorney.

Senator Donnelly's motion to discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill was lost by a strict party vote of 20 to 27.

WARDEN SAGE'S SUCCESSOR. Albany, April 20.-Cornellus V. Collins, State Superintendent of Prisons, to-day formally announced the appointment of Addison Johnson, of Port Chester, Westchester County, as a ent and warden of Sing Sing Prison, to succeed O. V. Sage.

THREE CHINAMEN KILLED.

RESULT OF A MURDEROUS OUTBREAK AMONG MONGOLIAN RESIDENTS OF FRESNO, CAL.

Fresno, Cal., April 20 .- As the result of fierce fighting among the residents of Chinatown early today, three Mongolians are dead, two are in the County Hospital mortally wounded and nine others are behind the bars in the County Jail. Upon hearling the first shot Policeman Rapelji, who was a block away, ran to the alley north of Tulare-st., between F and G sts., where he saw two Chinese shooting a third, who lay at their feet. Further up the alley were at least a dozen Chinamen blazing away at each other. As Rapelji ran up the al-ley a Chinaman passed him pursued by a highbinder. The fugitive was stopped by a buliet from the highbinder, which struck him in the head, killing him instantly. Rapelji captured the murderer, who gave his name as Wong Duck.

Policeman Morss, who was running to the scene of the shooting, saw a highbinder run up to a Chinaman named Chin Chee, who was standing in a

Chicaman named Chin Chee, who was standing in a decorway and deliberately fire two shots at him, killing him instantly. The murderer then started to run, whereupon Morss ordered him to stop. As he continued to run Morss fired, the ball penetrating the Chinaman's back, and he is now at the hospital, not expected to live.

The victims were Ah Ta. a vegetable pedier. Chin Chee, a well-known highbinder, and Lee On Tong, a pedier. The trouble which led to the murders began with the conviction of Tal Choy, who was yesterday removed to San Quentin Prison to serve a ten years' sentence for murder in the second degree. The matter was rendered more acute when Gee Wing, who had sold some property on China Alley for \$5,000, fied from the State to escape his creditors. A number of laborers and tothers, to whom he owed sums ranging from 30 to \$150, instituted criminal proceedings. Meanwhile, the highbinders had taken the matter up, and it is believed that one of their objects was to blackmail Gee Wing or to bring about a forcible settlement of the laborers' claims.

GERMAN ARRESTED FOR TREASON.

ACCUSED OF FURNISHING PLANS OF FORTIFI-CATIONS TO RUSSIAN OFFICERS.

Berlin, April 20 .- Sergeant-Major Albrecht, of the 129th Regiment, has been arrested at Bromberg, Prussia, about seventy miles from Posen, and has been taken in chains to Spandau, nine miles from here, where the State Prison is situated. The prisoner is charged with high treason in furnishing Russian agents with detailed plans of German forti-fications and plans for mobilizing the German

THE ACCIDENT TO THE STELLA.

CORONER'S JURY RENDERS A VERDICT OF AC-CIDENTAL DEATH-CENSURE IMPLIED.

Southampton, April 20.-The Coroner's inquest upon the victims of the disaster of March 30 last, when the passenger steamer Stella, of the London and Southwestern Railway Company, was wrecked on the Casquet Rocks, near the Island of Alderney, in a dense fog, and foundered ten minutes later, with the loss of over seventy of those on board. has resulted in a verdict of "accidental death," with a rider saying that "if the captain had slowed down and stood out to sea, the accident would not have happened."

BRYAN SPEAKS IN SYRACUSE. Syracuse, N. Y., April 20.-The Alhambra, with a

comfortably filled this evening when William J.
Bryan spoke. Mayor James Kosciusko McGuire
was chafrman of the meeting. Mr. Bryan's speech
was on familiar lines. seating capacity of three thousand people, was

MR. BRYAN STARTS WEST. William J. Bryan, after having attended two din-

ners and made two speeches in the city, started westward yesterday morning. Mr. Bryan took a 7 o'clock train for Syracuse, where he spoke last night. Mr. Bryan had nothing to say before his departure. He consulted with several friends and is said to have urged them to keep up the battle for the Chicago platform in the East and assured them of his support and the support of the Na-tional committee. He thinks that his visit has vi-talized those who still adhere to the Chicago plat-form and to himself as a leader, and that they will make a stalwart fight against Croker and the State machine, which is trying to secure an anti-Bryan and anti-Chicago platform delegation to the next National convention.

CAPTAIN MAHAN PRAISED

MR. CHOATE'S REPLY TO SIR GEORGE TREV. ELYAN'S SPEECH AT LITERARY FUND DINNER.

London, April 20 .- At the anniversary dinner of the Literary Fund this evening Sir George Otto Trevelyan, author of "The American Revolution" and nephew of Lord Macaulay, the historian, pre-sided. In the course of a reference to the presence of Joseph H. Chonte, the United States Ambaesa dor, he said that America had always sent distinguished representatives to Great Britain, and he reminded the company that Benjamin Franklin pre sided at the first dinner of the society.

Mr. Choate, responding for "Literature," emphssized the "harmonizing and unifying power of good sized the "harmonizing and unitying power of good literature between all peoples speaking the same language." The Anglo-American literary tie, he continued, had never been broken, and never could be. America had sent to England an author who had entered every home in the kingdom. He referred not to "Mark Twain" or to "Mr. Dooley." but to Captain Mahan, who had "taught England more than she knew of her power." In view of the debt due to literary men in the past, the fund must rank, in Mr. Choate's opinion, foremost among London's wonderful charities.

SCENE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, April 20.-There was a curious scene in

MEMBER FOR CARDIFF JOINS THE OPPOSITION

the House of Commons to-day. James M. Mac-lean, Conservative, Member for the Cardin District, who was editor and proprietor of "The Bombay Gazette," chairman of the Bombay Town Council, and president of the Institute of Journalists. and who is the author of several books on India and is bitterly antagonistic to the Indian cou vailing duties on sugar, began to question the Secretary of State for India, Lord George Hamilton, in an irritating manner, for which he was fre quently called to order by the Ministerial party quently called to order by the Ministerial party and by the Speaker Finally, turning angrily to the Ministerial benches, Mr. Maclean shouted: "If the Unionists do not want me, I can join the Opposition. Suiting action to the words, Mr. Maclean crossed over to the Opposition benches, where he was greeted with a storm of Liberal applause and ironical laughter from the other side. The angry member finally left the House.

WILL OF THE BARONESS DE HIRSCH.

MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE POUR

Vienna, April 21.-The "Neue Freis Presse" as serts that the estate left by the late Baroness de Hirsch, who died on April 1, has been valued at £25,000,000, of which £20,000,000 will be expended in carrying on the various charities founded and fostered by the Baron and Baroness.

The De Hirsch Foundation in New-York receives 1240,000, and the institute at Montreal one-tenth of that amount.

LIMITING SUGAR PRODUCTION. Berlin, April 20.-The "Neueste Nachrichten" says that the raw sugar and sugar refining syndicates have approved the terms of an agreement limiting the production of sugar for home consumption. THE STEAMER ZURBARAN LOST.

London, April 20.-The Spanish steamer Zurbaran

trading between here and Spain, has been lost at

sea, and part of her crew have been landed at Gijon, a Spanish town on the Bay of Biscay. The Zurbaran registered 648 tons, and hailed from

ENGLAND'S PREMIER RETURNS. London, April 20.-The Marquis of Salisbury, accompanied by the Marchioness, arrived in London this evening from the Riviera.



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